

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A secure interchangeable earring for use with a pierced ear having a pierced hole, the earring having a charm with a charm opening, comprising:

an earring body formed from a single integral piece, said piece having a substantially uniform cross section through its length except at one end, the earring body having:

a top, a bottom and a longitudinal dimension extending between the top and the bottom;

a free end for threading through the pieced ear, the free end sized to allow the free end to extend through the charm opening and the free end extending generally perpendicular to the longitudinal dimension;

a blocked end, said blocked end preventing the charm ring from being removed from the earring thereat; and

an apex portion between the free end and blocked end, the apex portion residing at the top of the earring body;

a vertical portion extending between the apex portion and the blocked end;

a spiraling middle portion extending between the apex portion and the free end;

wherein the body is sized to allow the charm to move fully from the free end toward the blocked end, such that when the earring body is threaded onto the ear with the apex at the pierced hole, the charm is trapped between the blocked end and the pierced ear; and

wherein the free end is positioned longitudinally closer to the top of the earring body than the blocked end and the charm when the earring is worn on the ear.

2. (previously presented): The secure interchangeable charm earring system as recited in claim 1, wherein the charm has a charm ring having the charm opening, and wherein the earring further comprises a ball located at the blocked end that is larger in diameter than the charm ring.

3. (previously presented): The secure interchangeable charm earring system as recited in claim 1, wherein at the blocked end the body is bent to form a plurality of concentric circles which do not allow the charm to pass that portion of the body.

4. (previously presented): The secure interchangeable charm earring system as recited in claim 1, wherein the body further comprises a curved bottom portion, the curved bottom portion having a valley and a high point, the blocked end located at the high portion, wherein the charm rests in the bottom portion valley when in place on the earring.

5. (currently amended): A method of using an interchangeable charm earring, for use with a pierced ear having a hole therethrough, using an earring having an earring body formed from a single integral piece having a substantially uniform cross section through its length, the body further including a top end, a bottom end and a longitudinal

dimension between the top and bottom ends and having a free end, blocked end, an apex portion configured at the top end, a curved bottom portion located adjacent the blocked end, a vertical piece extending between the apex portion and the bottom portion, and a spiraling middle portion located between the apex and free end, and using at least one charm, each charm having a charm ring for attaching the charm to the earring, comprising the steps of:

placing the charm on the earring by threading the earring through the charm ring from the free end toward the blocked end;

configuring the free end generally perpendicular to the longitudinal dimension between the top end and the bottom end and longitudinally closer to the top end than the blocked end and the at least one charm;

inserting the earring into the pierced ear by feeding the free end of the earring through the pierced hole while twisting the earring until the apex portion reaches the pierced hole; and

securing the charm on the earring by trapping the charm between the ear and the blocked end.

6. (previously presented): The method of using an interchangeable charm earring as recited in claim 5, wherein the step of placing the charm on the earring by threading the earring through the charm ring from the free end to the blocked end, further comprises the steps of:

inserting the free end of the earring through the charm ring; and

moving the charm and charm ring over the body around the angled middle portion,  
past the apex portion, down the vertical piece, to the bottom portion.